

LONDON, MAY 10, 1848.

The very beautiful weather, which commenced with the 1st of the present month and still continues, has given an air of cheerfulness and comfort even to busy, bustling, crowded London, which, during the foggy and dirty weather of the preceding three—shall I exceed the truth if I say six?—months, it really scarcely seemed capable of exhibiting. The gardens in the neighborhood are decked in their richest display of early summer flowers; the meadows are clothed with their beautiful herbage; the hedges are covered with the fragrant blossoms of the thorn; and the blackbird, the thrush, and the nightingale, and all the wild democracy of nature, are straining their throats in very successful opposition to the aristocracy of the opera-houses, although these latter are supported by Jenny Lind, Albion, and Pauline Garcia. And the birds will triumph in the end, for London will empty itself into the country, and the opera-houses be closed, whilst the chorists of the field and the hedges will continue their occupations, and feast their unsophisticated admirers with their delightful strains.

It is melancholy to reflect that whilst Nature is, at this delightful season, thus redolent of every joy and blessing, full of sweet sounds, with every breeze loaded with odors, and every aspect yielding the kindest influences, the majority of mankind should be immersed in pursuits and occupied with cares which render them either insensible to these things or incapable of enjoying them. The usual monotonizing routine of business is anti-natural enough, but when to this is added the whirl and excitement of politics, the rapid succession of the most startling and important events, and the uncertainty which hangs over the future, there will be found comparatively few of the adult population of England left free enough in heart and thought to enjoy the simple beauties of nature, and to devote themselves to quietness and repose.

In England, however, all that relates to her domestic affairs, all that is closely connected with her best interests, wears a satisfactory aspect. Commerce is reviving, manufacturers are more employed, agriculture is reasonably remunerated; the laboring poor are more sufficiently provided for, bread is diminishing in price, and consols are rising. Faction appears, for the time at least, to be still; the cause of rational, sober, and progressive reform in public grievances, and the extension of public rights, appear to be steadily advancing. Liberal measures, relating to both Church and State, are successfully carried in the Legislature; although we are aware that the bill for strengthening the hands of the Government in Ireland and that relating to aliens are rather in the teeth of this assertion. The revolutionary spirit in Ireland must, however, be kept down, and the dissatisfied and disorganizing demagogues of continental Europe must not unnoticed preach their revolutionary doctrines in England, if we wish for peace to our country and security to our institutions. That a strong move for Parliamentary Reform will be made during the present session, is highly probable; and that considerable concessions to the popular feeling will be granted, is more than probable. It is, however, very doubtful whether the present Administration will make these concessions without a struggle; and, if any other party were strong enough in numbers and in the confidence of the people, that party would probably succeed to power. In the opinion of some persons, and those too of rather a far-seeing class, Sir ROBERT PEEL is more likely to befriend an extensive reform movement than Lord JOHN RUSSELL. Reform will always meet its most strenuous opposition in the House of Lords, and with that body Lord JOHN is most closely connected. We do not say this in derogation of the present Prime Minister; we respect both his private and his public character, and we have strong historical and traditional recollections in favor of the House of RUSSELL. But Lord JOHN is not the man to break through strong early ties, and feelings, and habits—can't you see that?—and, without voluntarily, or without opposition, adopt such a reform of the House of Commons as will trench upon the powers and privileges of the House of Lords; and a reform which stopped short of doing that would not be a satisfactory one to the people of England. Sir ROBERT PEEL, on the contrary, is of the *modi homines*; lately sprung from the people, and originating from one of their most numerous and influential classes. He is separated from the party with whom he came into power by a breach which never can be closed. He has many warm friends and admirers in the House of Commons, who would probably go with him in any course which he might adopt, having implicit reliance upon his judgment and integrity. Sir ROBERT and his friends, and the members of the new Reform party, in conjunction with a numerous portion of the present Whigs, whose constituents are favorable to reform, would, it is very probable, be a majority of the House; and if such a union could be formed, and more unlikely coalitions have been made, they would carry the question. However, even the House of Lords is not altogether opposed to reform, since one of its members, Lord STANHOPE, has published his opinions upon the subject; and, although we do not, by any means, think that his plan is a practical one, yet it may be supposed that as he has turned his attention to the subject, and admits its necessity, he may be induced to support it in some more attainable shape. Earl STANHOPE appears to be deeply impressed with the necessity of an arrangement which will not only give a great proportion of the working classes a voice in the election of representatives, but he proposes a plan by which working men may become those representatives. No less than three of his propositions aim more or less at effecting this object. He is willing to dispense with a property qualification in members, and to allow them to receive their expenses during the session of Parliament if they think fit. On these points his Lordship goes further than any other recent writer on the subject.

Two things are certain: the bourgeois class have discovered that country gentlemen are but inadequate representatives of their order in Parliament; the working class have also a misgiving that none are likely to speak their views so exactly to their minds as some of themselves. Lord STANHOPE's plan would meet the wishes of these two large and important classes. He would also provide for the great extension of the franchise, and, when it is stated that not more than 900,000 of the people of Great Britain are entitled at present to vote, such an extension will be admitted to be necessary. Another of Lord STANHOPE's resolutions would equalize the electoral districts; and, since, at present, about 150,000 of the 900,000 electors return a majority of the House of Commons, this return also is admitted necessary. So much for the project of a Peer for Parliamentary reform: it is rather a novelty in the political world, and as such, and in consequence of the importance of the subject, we have so fully attended to it. Nothing is known of Mr. HENRY's plan of reform, but, judging from the resolutions which have been passed at some of the large towns, we think it will be likely to include internal Parliaments, household suffrage, equal electoral districts, and vote by ballot. The Chartist will not take this as a payment in full, but it will be so good a dividend upon their demand that they will receive it in part payment, and hold on to the Charter for the remainder. We have no fear of any physical-force argument from them.

An attempt will also undoubtedly be made to relieve the newspaper press from the oppression of the stamp and advertisement duty, or at least from a great part of them. The rumor is that the stamp will be reduced to one farthing and the advertisement duty to sixpence. It is a striking circumstance that, hitherto as we do of our free institutions and free press, there is at this moment no country in Europe—Russia and perhaps the Scandinavian kingdoms excepted—where the press labors under greater restrictions than it does in Great Britain. The late movements on the continent have every where emancipated the newspaper press from censorship, and from fiscal restrictions where such existed. In this country its development is still checked by stamp and advertisement

duties which, originally imposed for the avowed purpose of limiting its extension, have been from time to time heightened as its increased circulation rendered it a more profitable object of financial cupidity.

The French Government has abolished the stamp duty on newspapers. The English Government retains both the stamp and the advertisement duty, and refuses to establish an equitable and proportional rate of either, according to the price of the paper upon which it is levied. What the English press would be best satisfied with would be a charge for the stamp in proportion to what the public pays for the paper, and a rate of advertisement duty which would not be out of all proportion upon the humbler classes of advertisers.

The net produce of the newspaper stamp duty in Great Britain for the year which ended January 5, 1848, was £315,735; that of the advertisement duty was £151,672. The trifling amount of these duties in a financial point of view must convince every one that it is not a mere money calculation which prevents any modification or reduction in their rates; and, if some alteration be not made, it will give the opponents of Ministers occasion to charge them with a desire to indirectly check the free expression of public opinion.

There is a series of very useful articles on the cotton trade now publishing in the "Examiner" weekly newspaper. These have reference principally to the produce of the raw material, and more particularly to the question whether England can reasonably expect ever to obtain her supply of cotton from the East Indies. From these statements it appears that the value of the annual cotton crop of America is nearly sixty times as much as that of India, after all the care and attention and protection which has been bestowed upon the latter. The difference of price, too, when taken into combination with that of quality, is very much in favor of the former. Before the importation of United States cotton the price of cotton from the Levant, Spanish America, and India was from sixteen to eighteen pence per pound; it is now not more than one-fifth of that price on the average. The more investigation is made into this subject the more satisfied must every one be that the United States need fear no rival in the British market for her cotton.

I mentioned in my last that considerable attention was being paid to the subject of emigration. I know not what plans are in contemplation, but it is quite evident that something must be done either to support the surplus population in idleness, reduce their number by deportation, or, what would be best of all, find them profitable and useful employment at home, and with the products of their labor pay foreign nations for their bread. Now, as to the first, we have no idea that any communist or socialist plan, by which the people are either to be supported in idleness or employed in unprofitable labor, will ever find favor with the English nation, or be recommended by its Government.

Then, as to sufficiently reducing and permanently keeping down the population to and at the exact point, the measure would be impracticable in the present state of British finances. How commerce and business are to be so far expanded as to give profitable employment to our crowded population would, I think, puzzle an entire college of political economists. Yet to end as we began, something must be done! London has again increased her population; and this time 521 persons in seven days; the births for the last week having been 1,536, the deaths 1,015. Another phenomenon of the week was, that the weather, on an average, was 21 degrees warmer than it had been during the corresponding week in any of the twenty-five preceding years.

The late political events in Europe have caused great derangements in the financial world. There is a report in the newspapers of the day that, among other sufferers, the house of Rothschild & Co. has, as might have been expected, occupied an undesirable pre-eminence. The prodigious wealth and resources of this princely band of brothers may be imagined, when it is stated that they have experienced, if not absolute losses, pecuniary disappointments to the amount of two hundred millions of francs, say forty millions of dollars, or eight millions sterling, without having had their daily business deranged, or their credit impaired. Probably no other merchants or bankers of ancient or modern times could have withstood such a storm.

IRELAND grows more pacific every day, although Mr. O'BRIEN has relinquished his intention, hastily adopted at Limerick when smothered under bruises and annoyed with a black eye, of retiring from public life; he now appears as bellicose as ever; but he is harmless, and Ireland will not rise at his bidding.

In FRANCE the great event is the assembling of the National Convention, and the organization of that numerous body of *new men* in great measure, by the election of a large majority of the *Moderates* to places of trust and importance. For President M. BUCHET, the candidate of the moderates, had 390 votes, and M. RECRUT, the favorite of the *Left*, had 311 votes, only 91. The Vice Presidents, Secretaries, and Quorum, (maintainers of order,) were very nearly all of the same moderate party. The proclamation of the republic by the National Convention on the porch of the Chamber, and before at least two hundred thousand of the people of Paris, is described as having been the most enthusiastic and striking scene that has yet occurred. No doubt can be entertained but that a republic will be established. How long it may suit the taste of the French people, be found applicable to their condition as a nation, or bear up against all possible and probable contingencies and combinations, must be left for time to determine. The Provisional Government resigned its powers to the National Convention immediately after the latter body assumed its preliminary organization; and France from that time to the present may be said to have been without any Government *de jure*, although the Provisional Government must be supposed to discharge its duties *de facto* until its successors are appointed. M. LAMARTINE read on behalf of the President of the Provisional Government, M. DEWOST (DE L'ECHE), who was, on account of his great age and feeble voice, unequal to the task, the report of the Provisional Government. It was exceedingly clear, dignified, and modest, and concluded with the following striking passages:

"We have passed five-and-forty days without any other Executive power than that derived from moral authority, entirely devoid of physical attributes."

"We have passed more than two months of a crisis—of cessation of work, of misery, of elements of political agitation and social anguish, accumulated in innumerable masses in a capital of a million and a half of inhabitants, without having violated, and without a life threatened by anger, without repression, without a proscription, a political imprisonment, or a drop of blood shed in our name toadden the Government in Paris. We may descend from this long dictatorship, and mingle with the people without the possibility of a citizen asking us, 'What have you done with a citizen?'"

"Citizen Representatives, our work is done, and yours commences. The present Convention is a plan of Government, or of a project of a constitution, would have been, on our part, a long prolongation of power or an encroachment upon your sovereignty. We disappear as soon as you rise to receive the republic from the hands of the people. We will only allow ourselves one piece of advice."

"This wish is felt as by France as by us. It is the cry of circumstances—'*non va bene*'—that principal element of a republican crisis. Let a commencement of government spring from your bosoms. Do not allow power to float for one moment precarious and temporary on a country which wants both power and security."

"In the mean while we place in your hands our power. We place our acts also with confidence before your judgment; and we only beg of you to take into account the difficulties we have experienced. Our conscience reproaches us with nothing intentionally wrong. Providence has favored our efforts."

These are noble sentiments, and will form highly interesting scraps of the heretofore-to-be-written history of this third and probably greatest revolution in France.

M. LAMARTINE's address was received with great and prolonged applause. The rest of the Ministers followed with their reports, all of which were heard with approbation. A vote of thanks to the Provisional Government has since passed the Chamber, with only two dissentient voices. M. LEDRU ROLLIN, when asked the other day whether there had not been contention in the Provisional Government, declared solemnly that there had not; that the members had difference of opinion upon many points; that occasionally long and earnest discussion had taken place, but that not a single word had been spoken; and that the minority always had at once submitted to the majority. The best good-will and kindest feeling always existed, and still exist among the members of the Government; and they had uniformly, one and all, been influenced by a single motive, the happiness and glory of France. He appealed to all his brother Ministers whether this had not been the case. So much for the out-of-door rancors of personal altercations, of pistols being drawn and pointed at each other, &c. M. LAMARTINE has declared, in his place in the Convention, "that France, though prepared for war, would be able to remain at peace with all Europe." M. BERANGER (the poet) has resigned his seat on account of his great age and his literary habits, which, he says, "unfit him for political life." There have been occasional disorders and irregularities in the proceedings of the Convention, but not more than might have been expected from so numerous and, in a great measure, unpractised a body of men. The President, when any noise or confusion occurs which he cannot readily put an end to, places his hat on his head and adjourns the session for half an hour, to allow the members time to consult, &c. The Convention is divided into eighteen bureaux, or standing committees, who deliberate in separate rooms. Of the presidents and secretaries of these committees, a decided majority belong to the Moderate party. The decree which appeared in the *Moniteur* respecting the adoption of a uniform dress by the members of the Convention, has been almost entirely disregarded. It does not appear that this decree was signed by any member of the Government, although it appeared in the official journal.

The return of the Austrian Minister at Paris to Vienna and the rumored march of the French army of the Alps into Italy induced the apprehension of war between the two countries. It appears, however, that the return of Count d'ARNOX to Vienna arose from the circumstance of France having no minister at Vienna, but merely a *chargé d'affaires*; Austria will henceforward be represented at Paris by a diplomatic agent of equal rank; and the former Austrian secretary of legation remains at Paris as such agent. "The Provisional Government will not advance the army of the Alps into Italy until it has been demanded of them to do so, either by the Provisional Government at Milan or by the King of Sardinia." These are the exact words of the newspapers; they do not make the matter much better; for the right of France to invade Italy would not be very clearly established even if both the contingencies upon which it is made to depend should occur.

Prussia and Denmark are yet doing each other all the mischief they can. The Baltic and the northern seas swarm with Danish vessels of war and privateers, to the entire destruction of Prussian commerce, and great derangement of that of all other nations. Danish privateers have been seen even in the British channel. There is little doubt, however, but that a speedy settlement of the question in dispute is expected. One strong reason for thinking so is that the Danish Government has countermanded an order for ten thousand stand of arms, which was executing in England. Nothing new from RUSSIA or SWEDEN.

It appears very doubtful, from present prospects, whether GERMANY will be brought to federalize herself under one head, be the one proposed either the King of Prussia, the Emperor of Austria, or some other prince or person who may be proposed by the Diet at Frankfurt. Each of the potentates is too great, and the people too proud, and, as yet it may be feared, too little aware of the importance of union to be induced to obey the other. However, it would be very premature to express an opinion upon the subject at present. Every day will now be bringing us news from Germany, and we are yet fully employed with looking at and thinking about FRANCE.

Poland and HUNGARY are, we fear, in a terrible state; the mixed population of each country are in arms against each other, and much blood has been shed. The Poles have, it is to be lamented, thrown away a fine, and perhaps their only chance of regeneration: they should have made common cause with the German population of Poland, instead of opposing them. The two races of Slavon and Teuton will not amalgamate; each blames the other, and both are most probably wrong. The Slavon cannot yet stand alone; he must not yet separate from the Teuton. He has not yet refoundered or reconquered a country—for country, at present, the Slavon has none. The conduct of the Poles in Posen seems to have been little short of madness. The two parties appear to regard each other with absolute hatred; religious feelings are much mixed up in the strife. The political animosity is cherished by the nobles, the religious by the clergy; and both are exhibited with a fanaticism and cruelty worthy the middle ages, or rather unworthy any age.

Wherever these two races exist together this deadly feeling of hatred also exists—in the case in Posen and Bohemia, more or less in great part of Austria. This will be a great obstacle to a union with the "Fatherland." The nobles of Russia may look quietly on and let the work of disunion do its business. All disunion there will be strength to him.

Spain and Portugal present nothing new. Mr. BELWEE and NARVAIZ are, it is said, reconciled. The British Government, although avowedly sanctioning all Mr. Bulwer did, pays a very doubtful compliment to his discretion. The tide of victory appears to have turned in favor of the ITALIANS in their late conflicts with the AUSTRIANS. So far as we understand Lord Minto's late mission to the headquarters of the King of Sardinia, we do not approve of it. He was said to be the bearer of a proposal that Austria should be left quietly in possession of the Venetian territory, on condition of her not molesting the Lombards west of the Minicio. CHARLES ALBERT has, we learn, rejected the proposal; nor could he have done otherwise. Such an arrangement could not be lasting. Italy, to be permanently free, must be one and indivisible. She cannot abandon one of the noblest portions of the country, the fairest jewel of the Italian triad. If Italy would be free she must conquer the freedom of Venice. She cannot exist prosperously, either politically or commercially, separated from Venice. We hope that the British Government is no party to this project of Lord Minto.

There is a new and important move, however, upon the political chess-board, and it may be fraught with consequences as important in the future history of Europe and the world as any which have yet been made. The Pope has declared war against Austria. He did not take this step until it was demanded of him by his subjects in a tone that could not be misunderstood; being accompanied with a threat that, in case of his refusal, they would take the temporal power from his hands, and appoint a Provisional Government. He was allowed only twenty-four hours to come to a decision. On the other hand, the Pope was told by AUSTRIA that if he advanced one step further in the affairs of Lombardy, or if he interfered with them any way but as a mediator, then Austria would separate herself completely from all spiritual communion with the See of Rome. Austria being the most powerful of the Roman Catholic States, her example would be very influential with them, and might lead to the emancipation of all Catholic Europe from the supremacy of the Pope. What effect the destruction of the temporal power of the Chief of the Roman Church would produce it is impossible to say, because there are no historical parallels or analogies with which to compare it. The Pope has, however, taken the initiative step; he has declared war against Austria; he has, through his new Minister, (M. MAXIMIANI,) promised that the whole energies of his State shall be exerted towards the expulsion of the Austrians from Italy. The Minister of Austria at Rome has been ordered to withdraw. There appears to have been a cabal in the conclave of Cardinals, to keep the Pope from taking this decisive step. The correspondence of these political ecclesiastics has been sent and read to the people from the Capitol. Public indignation is strongly excited against them; several have attempted to fly, but they were conducted back to their palaces, and placed under surveillance. There are to be no more Priests in the public employment. The politics of Rome are henceforward to be managed by laymen. This will be a great improvement. We must now wait for the next movement, which has to be made by Austria. In usual times this business would have occupied the political speculations of all Europe; but in these days of revolutions it is passed over almost as a sort of insignificant underplot, having little or no bearing upon the denouement of the great political drama now playing before the eyes of the world. So much for politics.

MAY 12.—THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER announced last evening, in the House of Commons, that the revenue was improving, the receipts of last week being exceeded those of the corresponding week of last year. Lord J. RUSSELL said that the Government did not consider itself called upon to interfere between Denmark and Prussia. The question was renewed in consequence of the blockade of the Prussian ports by Denmark. "The removal of aliens bill" has passed the House of Commons by a vote of 146, against 29.

The telegraphic despatch from Paris brings news of the appointment of a commission of five members to manage the general affairs of the nation until the settled form of government is established. The members of this commission are MM. Arago, Garnier Pages, Marie, Lamartine, and Ledru Rollin, elected in the order of their names. Lamartine's name was thus placed fourth on the list, owing to his strenuous advocacy of Ledru Rollin being placed on such commission; he thereby offended a portion of the old legitimists and dynasty members, who wished to keep the executive government as free as possible from ultra-republican influence, and who would rather have excluded Lamartine than admitted Ledru Rollin. The number of Legitimists in the convention is said to be at least one hundred. The materials of this *ad interim* Government are, probably, such as will suit the people. Lamartine and Ledru Rollin are respectively at the head of the two great parties who brought about the revolution—the citizens and the working classes—and Arago, Garnier Pages, and Marie are probably, three as good men as could be chosen. Lamartine has really rallied himself in the eyes of the country at large, by the sagacity and good feeling which he has successfully exerted in securing the election of Ledru Rollin as a member of the temporary Government, although his doing so reduced his ministers of votes. Lamartine's policy was undoubtedly wisest, and most likely to secure the peace of the country; the ultra-democrats have now no theme of declamation, no object of hostility. The Executive Commission has appointed their ministers, twelve in number. Among them are Carnot, Bethmont, Cremieux, and Flocon; the remainder are in great measure new names. M. Barthe is Minister of Foreign Affairs, and M. Recrut of the Interior.

The news from Rome received this morning is of a very contradictory nature, but the general tenor of it encourages the belief that the Pope has not declared war against Austria; and that Rome has revolted as one man against his Holiness. The Ministry has been formed into a Provisional Government with powers to transact all temporal affairs without the sanction of the Pope, or his sign manual. Perhaps the real state of the case may reach Liverpool before the sailing of the packet. There are strong rumors of further important successes of the Italians over the Austrians. Great tumult and disorder prevail in Greece. The Spanish Government is said to be very short of funds, and it is thought that Lord PALMERSTON is about to call upon them for payment of their English debts. This would be embarrassing.

THE LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE.

The New York papers contain full details of the news brought by the steamer *United States*. "The most important part of it is that which relates to the unsuccessful attempt of the Communists in Paris to create a new revolution. Although for some time they had possession of the hall of the National Assembly, they were at length expelled by the national guard, and the leaders of the movement arrested."

The Chartist National Assembly in London is dissolved, and the members have dispersed. Negotiations for peace between Denmark and Holstein, under the mediation of England, are in progress. The Emperor of Austria has concluded an alliance, offensive and defensive, with the Emperor of Russia, for the preservation of their respective countries.

DEATH OF LORD ASHBURTON. LORD ASHBURTON, better known as ALEXANDER BARKIN, died on the 12th of May, in the 73th year of his age. During the early period of his life he passed much of his time in the United States, where he married the daughter of General BARKIN, and was connected by commercial ties with a vast number of the banks and mercantile establishments in the States. His visit to Washington in 1842 as English Ambassador, with the object of settling the Maine boundary question, will be fresh in the memory of your readers. The successful issue of that negotiation, and the subsequent settlement of the Oregon dispute, which Lord Ashburton promoted by every means in his power, have forever removed all possible ground of difference between the two countries, and the part which Lord Ashburton took in these transactions will be gratefully remembered. He retired from business in 1839, and was created a Peer in 1835. He was a highly intelligent, indeed accomplished man. He was on intimate terms with all the leading statesmen of Europe of all parties; his great experience gave him a vast influence. His chief wealth was derived from the successful French loan in 1815. He is succeeded by WILLIAM BARKIN BARKIN, in the title and estate. His second son, Francis, continues at the head of the mercantile firm; Mr. MILNAY, Lord Ashburton's son-in-law, having retired about two months ago. Mr. JAMES BATES and CHARLES BARKIN YOUNG are now the other remaining partners. The death of Lord Ashburton, following so close upon the decease of his brothers, Sir THOMAS BARKIN and Mr. HENRY BARKIN, both of whom have died within a month, has been the theme of general regret.

FRANCE. The following is a history of the recent disturbances in Paris: The Clubs of Paris on Saturday, the 13th, announced a demonstration in favor of the cause of Poland. It had been announced that a petition got up by clubs, calling upon the public to interfere effectually and at once in favor of Poland, was to be presented to the National Assembly the 14th, and placards were issued calling on the delegates from all the clubs to meet at the Place de la Bastille, to go in procession to the Chamber to present it. A difference, however, broke out among the clubs themselves. Some of them declared that such a procession would amount to intimidation; others, who wished the demonstration to be postponed to Monday, the 14th, while the Poles themselves and the friends of the cause of the question, and seeing that the Government was disposed to do all that could be expected in favor of their country, they did not wish for any demonstration on the part of the clubs in their favor. In order to get over the appearance of intimidation, a placard was issued on Friday announcing that the procession would not go further than the Place de la Madeleine, and would proceed from there to the Chamber.

It was in this position that affairs were on the 14th. At an early hour the clubs began to meet at the place de la Bastille, but not in any great numbers. At 12 o'clock the procession, which did not amount to more than 3,000 men, began to move along the Boulevard. At the Place de la Madeleine they were met by the delegates, and the procession was presented by M. Vavin. On the return of the delegates the procession quickly dispersed.

The authorities appeared to have been in a state of great alarm with respect to this demonstration. All night large bodies of national guards and troops were kept under arms; and at the hall of the Chamber there were upwards of 4,000 men. The clubs were anxious to get up a riot of some kind, no matter what, provided it had the effect of upsetting the Government. A considerable sensation was created on Saturday by the clubbists having disarmed a drummer sent out by the authorities to beat the *rappel*—a new mode adopted by the clubs to prevent the national guards from being called out.

The immediate cause of these attempts of the clubbists to overthrow the Government is stated to be the formation of an Executive Government (as announced by the last arrival) without the names of either M. LOUIS BLANC or M. ALBERT, (*ouvrier*), and the refusal of the National Assembly to listen to the proposition made by the former for the establishment of a new department of Government, under the title of the *Ministere du Travail et du Progres*—a department which was intended by M. Louis Blanc for his own particular benefit. Upon this exclusion of Louis Blanc his partisans endeavored to get up an *emete* among the Communists upon the subject, and placarded all Paris with such *effiches* as the following:

On the 25th of February might have been read on the walls of Paris:

That the Republic guarantees an existence to every one through labor, and that it guarantees work to every citizen. It recognizes the right of workmen to associate among themselves in order to enjoy the full benefit of their labor. It promises to give to the *ouvriers* the million cut off from the civil list. [Signed by Garnier Pages and Louis Blanc.]

TO THE OUVRIERS. The promises made on the barricades not being accomplished, and the Assembly having refused, in the sitting of the 10th of May, to constitute a Minister of Labor, the delegates of the Luxembourg refuse to join in the fête of Concord on Sunday next. [Signed by Lagarde, President; Bernard, Godin, and Lavoire, Vice Presidents; and Lefauré, Delit, and Petit, Secretaries.]

The following placard was posted up, and, like the preceding, was torn down almost immediately:

"Poland is being massacred, and you are invited to your fête. The programme of the fête of the Champ de Mars has a place for the German, Italian, and Polish deputations."

In the procession of the approaching solemnity of the republic, it is just that the Italians, who are the victims of their oppressors, should take part in the triumph of the French people; and the Germans, who, by means of the republic, have gained constitutions, may mingle their cries of joy with those of their brothers on the banks of the Seine. As to the Poles, it was rather to a funeral mass that France should have invited our brothers of the North. Their place is at the foot of the guillotine. It is they who must inspire God, their sole protector, for the salvation of their country and the repose of their slaughtered brethren."—[Signed "Several true Friends of Poland."]

Other similar placards were posted up. In the mean time the Communists went into the agitation of the Polish question with the intensest zeal. Numerous meetings were held in the clubs and elsewhere. A Paris correspondent of a London paper, describing the Sunday procession referred to above, says:

"We observed this *atrasoupement* attentively. With the exception of some eighteen or twenty individuals wearing the uniform of the national guard, and some of whom were officers, they consisted exclusively of the very lowest classes. As they marched they vociferated 'Vive la Pologne,' and proceeded thus to the Place de la Madeleine, where they placed in the hands of the representatives of Paris, a petition in favor of the Poles. It was said that *atrasoupement* also took place in the Marais and the Quartier St. Martin, but they committed no breach of order; nevertheless the appearance of the procession above-mentioned created a momentary alarm in the neighborhood of the Chamber, and the 'rappel' was beaten in the quarter of the Tuilleries and the Madeleine, and the national guard called out. No serious consequences, however, ensued."

On Monday, the 15th, these *atrasoupements*, as they are called, began to be a more serious matter. But the Government was not unprepared for them, for M. Emile Girardin, in the *Presse*, seems to have been somewhat in the secrets of the insurrectionists, and therefore we presume the Government was at least equally well informed. He begins his Monday's paper by saying—

"The fate of liberty in France will perhaps be decided this day, (the 15th of May.) If the *ad interim* Government and National Assembly evince a want of firmness, if they have not the resolution to resist the passions and the passions of the demand war, bankruptcy, and despotism, the revolution of February will have the fate of its eldest sister, Poland, let them be assured, is only the banner under which Terror, which does not show itself, lies concealed." It concludes a long article thus: "The National Assembly is warned. Poland is the pretext, Terror the end."

But on Monday, notwithstanding the Government was thus forewarned, an immense number of persons marched from the Bastille to the Hall of the National Assembly, forced open the doors, and mingled with the Deputies. In their name, or, as he said, in the name of the people, M. HERBERT then proclaimed the Assembly dissolved. By some of the self-elected Deputies a new Government was appointed, but either the gentlemen named refused the honor, or their supporters were not numerous enough to give effect to their wishes, and the insurrectionists did not succeed in their object, though they created much momentary disturbance. The national guard, the guard mobile, and the troops of the line were called out, and remained true to the Government. Their imposing attitude intimidated the rioters, and, without any fighting, the latter retreated from the Assembly. The uproar was immense, but nothing worse came of the irruption, and after the people retired the National Assembly resumed its sitting. We subjoin an account of the scene in the Assembly:

MONDAY, MAY 15.—At 12 o'clock M. BUCHET, the President, took the chair. The President announced that he had received a number of petitions in favor of Poland, which had been forwarded to him by clubs and private individuals.

M. ARAGO asked, should Italy demand the interference of France, was the Government disposed to accede to the request? He also asked, if negotiations were pending in Italy, by which Austria should be allowed to retain any portion of Italy, what would be the course adopted by the Government? Gen. SERVIEUX, interrupting the speaker, observed that, when he left the Ministry, the army of the Alps presented an efficient force of 30,000.

The question of Poland outside having been followed by a moment's silence, BARKIN attempted to address the Assembly, but was surrounded by a number, who resorted in turn to threats and persuasion to dissuade him from speaking. M. LAMARTINE rose and said that he would give full explanations after the conclusion of the debate on Polish affairs. M. WOLOWSKI was then called to the tribune to develop his most relative to Poland.

At this moment loud cries were heard from outside, and, at the suggestion of a member that it was the duty of the Assembly to remain at their post at such a critical moment, the officers of the House were sent out to invite all the members in the Hall of Conference to join their colleagues, and in an instant all the benches were filled. M. LOUIS BLANC entered the Chamber.

M. WOLOWSKI contended that the most glorious mission France could accomplish would be the resuscitation of Poland; that France of the North which, during its existence, had been the bulwark of civilization and Christianity.

Here M. DEWOST, one of the questioners, ascended the tribune and said that, contrary to the express orders of the questioners, he had ventured to address the Assembly, as being in the Hall of Conference to join their colleagues, and in an instant all the benches were filled. M. LOUIS BLANC entered the Chamber.

M. CLEMENT THOMAS had risen to speak, when the public galleries were forcibly entered by men carrying banners and crying "Vive la Pologne!" Several individuals also penetrated into the hall by the side doors, and amongst them was a captain of the artillery of the national guard, who were turned out by the members and officers of the House.

The greatest confusion ensued, and the President was obliged to cover himself. Messrs. Barbes, Clement Thomas, and others occupied the tribune. The former attempted to speak, but was prevented by M. Larabit. All the members of the Executive Government left the hall at this moment.

M. GUESDE, who had been invited to the tribune, at this moment the crowd rushed in, and the doors were completely blocked up. Several members, having protested, were ill-treated by the people. LEDRU ROLLIN ascended the tribune, but being unable to obtain a hearing, he left it to BARBES and BLANCHET.

Shortly afterwards M. BUCHET re-entered the hall, accompanied by the Prefect of Police and the members of the Executive Commission. He invited the people to silence, and in silence in order that the Assembly might hear the petition which a man of the people standing near him held in his hand. No attention, however, was paid to his suggestion, and the petition was read amidst the utmost tumult.

Gen. COURTOIS, Raspail, Blanqui, Barbes, and men dressed in black, in their shirts, occupied the tribune, all vociferating the cry of "Vive la Pologne!"

M. LOUIS BLANC then appeared by the side of the President, and was hailed with loud cheers by the mob.

Silence being restored, LOUIS BLANC invited the people to silence in order that the petition might be read and freely discussed.

The petition was again read by a delegate of the clubs, who concluded by demanding that the Assembly direct its *stater* that a friendly invitation be addressed to the Northern Powers to re-establish Poland, and that a French army be held ready to cross the Rhine and march to Poland, should the ultimatum be rejected.

The President then rose and observed, that the Assembly had received the petition, and that if they wished it to deliberate upon it they should retire. M. BARBES joined in the recommendation.

One of the presidents of the clubs here rose and asked leave to develop the petition. It was the desire of France that Poland should be re-established in its limits of 1772, that is from the banks of the Vistula to the coast of the Black Sea. He then declared that the Government would not suffer itself to be intimidated by foreign diplomacy.

The cries heard from without were, he said, mere manifestations in favor of Poland, which would change into cries in honor of the Assembly if it decreed the reconstruction of Poland. All parties were agreed on that point. The people might be divided in opinion on domestic matters, but were unanimous on the question of Poland. He accordingly entrusted the Assembly to declare war against the oppressors of that noble country.

While he was at the tribune, he would address another request to the Assembly. Their brethren of a neighboring city (Rouen) had been mercilessly butchered. Instead of healing those cruel wounds, their enemies seemed to have taken pleasure in envenoming them. The prisoners were full of them, and he asked that they be instantly liberated.

Cries of "Down with Frank Carre!" resounded on all sides, and the speaker concluded by recommending that immediate measures be adopted to provide labor for the people and to improve the condition of the working classes. "Let a ministry of labor be established and Louis Blanc placed at its head," exclaimed the popular auditors.

M. LEDRU ROLLIN addressed the Assembly. He did not, he said, speak as a member of the Executive Commission, not having had occasion to consult his colleagues. He spoke as a simple citizen and a representative of the people. The people had, he said, made known their wishes with regard to Poland; they should be attended to, and their Polish brethren assisted. They had also manifested their desire that the Assembly should do all its solicitude to allay the sufferings of the people. [Yes, yes, the creation of a ministry of labor.] He now called on them to give a proof of their wisdom and admirable good sense, which could not be deceived, [we are deceived, we are betrayed, exclaimed the people.]